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Security Council

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Letter dated 10 April 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 5 January 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2000/7). In that letter, the Permanent Representative indicated that the sweeping sanctions imposed on Iraq had deprived the country of its financial resources and prevented it from paying its contributions to international organizations, and he requested the Council to consider this matter on an urgent basis and to approve the allocation of $24 million from the Iraq account established pursuant to resolution 986 (1990) and the memorandum of understanding of 20 May 1996, and specifically the 53 per cent and 13 per cent accounts, for the payment of the arrears in Iraq's contributions to the budget of the United Nations ($10 million) and to the budget of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries ($14 million).

At its consultations held on 7 February 2000, the Council considered Iraq's request and a large number of its members expressed their support. One State expressed reservations on the grounds that revenues under the Programme were intended for humanitarian items, compensation payments and the other disbursements for which provision is made in resolution 986 (1995), and the discussion came to a halt at that point.

Iraq had requested the allocation of the sum in question from its revenues on the basis of a suggestion made by the United Nations Committee on Contributions in its report on its special session held from 8 to 12 February 1999 (A/53/11/Add.1), as presented in detail in the aforesaid letter from the Permanent Representative.

The withdrawal of this sum from the 53 per cent and 13 per cent accounts cannot in any way affect the allocations made to the humanitarian sectors inasmuch as it can be taken from the accumulated interest in these two accounts, which currently stands at some $246 million. Should one member of the Council have difficulty with the withdrawal of the sum in question from the 53 per cent and 13 per cent accounts, then it can be taken from the 2.2 per cent account allocated to the administrative and operational expenses of the Iraq Programme. According to the report of the Secretary-General dated 10 March 2000 (S/2000/208, annex I), there is presently more than $212 million in the 2.2 per cent account. The greater part of this sum (approximately $150 million) is not being used but has been set aside as an "emergency reserve". Approval for the transfer of $24 million from this account

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would represent a positive response to a legitimate Iraqi request to be able to use its own funds in order to pay its contributions to international organizations and would, at the same time, help alleviate the financial crisis of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would present the suggestion made in this letter to the Council at its next meeting and endeavour to secure the Council's approval for this legitimate request.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rokan Hama **Al-Anbuge**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.